

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and processing a mailpiece with destination information, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, ~~if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, ~~if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

processing sorting the mailpiece in an identification code system, ~~wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the sorting step further includes the substeps of~~ if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system comprising:

applying an identification code to the back of the mailpiece;

applying a postal code to the front of the mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the mailpiece; and

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HENDERSON
FARABOW
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DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a geographic coded code.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a bar code.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the postal ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a POSTNET code.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is a printed bar code.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is an ID tag.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification file includes the identification code.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the identification file further includes the postal code.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying and processing a ~~mailpiece~~ with mailpieces including destination information, comprising the steps of:

a front code sorting component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

C/ an identifying component configured ~~to identify the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system having a plurality of nodes and a processing sorting component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting component further includes:~~ for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising;

an identification code applying component configured to apply an identification code to the back of the third mailpiece ;₁

a postal code applying component configured to apply a postal code to the front of the third mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the mailpiece;₁ and

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Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
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a creating component configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a geographic coded code.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a bar code.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a POSTNET code.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is a printed bar code.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is an ID tag.

15. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the identification file includes the identification code.

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16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the identification file further includes the postal code.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying and processing ~~a mailpiece with~~ mailpieces including destination information, the computer readable code comprising:

C/ a front code sorting module configured to ~~sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying module configured to ~~identify the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system ~~sorting~~ processing module configured to ~~sort the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting module further includes:~~ for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

an identification code applying module configured to apply an identification code to the back of the third mailpiece;

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1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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a postal code applying module configured to apply a postal code to the front of the third mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the third mailpiece; and

a creating module configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the an identification code system.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying and processing a ~~mailpiece~~ with mailpieces including destination information, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

means for sorting ~~the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

means for identifying ~~the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

means for ~~sorting the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the sorting means further includes:~~ processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the processing means comprising;

means for applying an identification code to the back of the third mailpiece;

means for applying a postal code to the front of the third mailpiece in accordance with the destination information on the third mailpiece; and

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Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
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means for creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in ~~the~~ an identification code system.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and processing a mailpiece, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

determining in an input system if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if ~~there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if ~~the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

~~sorting~~ processing the mailpiece in an identification code system, ~~wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the sorting step includes the substeps of:~~ having a plurality of nodes if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system comprising:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece at the input system;

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Washington, DC 20005
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~~taking~~ generating an image of the mailpiece at ~~an~~ the input system;₁

~~transmitting~~ transporting the mailpiece from the input system to ~~a holding stack in~~ an output system;₁

processing the mailpiece image in an identification file ~~determining~~ system to create an identification file ~~for~~ corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a the plurality of nodes in the identification code system;₁

processing the ~~mailpiece~~ image at a keying site to create the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image, if the identification file ~~determining~~ system did not create the identification file;₁

transmitting the identification file ~~corresponding to the mailpiece image to~~ the an output system;₁ and

associating the identification file ~~for the mailpiece image to~~ with the corresponding identification code for the mailpiece at the output system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

marking a postal code on the front of the mailpiece based on the identification file associated with the identification code determined in the sorting step.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

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22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

25. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

26. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the keying site processing step further comprises the substep of:

processing the mailpiece image in order of priority.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the mailpiece.

28. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:
transmitting the identification file to a primary identification code server.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of:

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transmitting the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary identification code server.

30. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

locating an identification file based on the code on the back of the mailpiece, if there is the code on the back of the mailpiece.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying and processing a ~~mailpiece~~ with mailpieces, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying component configured ~~to identify the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system ~~sorting~~ processing component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting component includes:~~ for sorting a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

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1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
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an identification code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at the input system;

~~a taking an image~~ component configured to ~~take~~ generate an image of the third mailpiece at an input system;

a mailpiece ~~transmitting~~ transporting component configured to ~~transmit~~ transport the third mailpiece from the input system to a ~~holding stack~~ in an output system;

an identification file ~~determining~~ system processing component configured to process the ~~mailpiece~~ image in an identification file determining system to create an identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system;

a keying site processing component configured to process the ~~mailpiece~~ image at a keying site to create the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image, if the identification file determining system did not create the identification file;

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the output system; and

an associating component configured to associate the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the corresponding identification code for the third mailpiece at the output system.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising:

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a postal code marking component configured to mark a postal code on the front of the mailpiece based on the identification file associated with the identification code determined by the identification code system sorting component.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

C/ 34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a bar code.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a POSTNET code.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is a printed bar code.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is an ID tag.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the keying site processing component further comprises: a priority processing component configured to process the third mailpiece image in order of priority.

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39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the third mailpiece.

40. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising:
a primary identification code server transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file to a primary identification code server.

41. (Original) The system of claim 40, further comprising:
a secondary identification code server transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary identification code server.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the identification code system sorting component ~~further comprising:~~ comprises a locating component configured to locate ~~an~~ the identification file based on the code on the back of the third mailpiece, ~~if there is the code on the back of the mailpiece.~~

43. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying and processing ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, the system comprising:

means for sorting ~~the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if~~
~~there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

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Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
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means for identifying ~~the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

means for ~~sorting the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the sorting means includes:~~ processing a third mailpiece in an identification code system, the third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the processing means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at ~~the~~ an input system;

means for ~~taking~~ generating an image of the third mailpiece at ~~an~~ the input system;

means for ~~transmitting~~ transporting the third mailpiece from the input system to a ~~holding stack in~~ an output system;

means for processing the ~~mailpiece~~ image in an identification file ~~determining~~ system to create an identification file for corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system;

means for processing the ~~mailpiece~~ image at a keying site to create the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image, if the identification file ~~determining~~ system did not create the identification file;

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202.408.4000
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means for transmitting the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~
image to the output system; and

means for associating the identification file ~~for the mailpiece image to~~ with
the third mailpiece ~~corresponding~~ identification code ~~for the third mailpiece at the~~
~~output system.~~

44. (Currently Amended) A computer usable medium having computer
readable code embodied therein for identifying and processing ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces,
the computer readable code comprising:

C/ a front code sorting module configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the~~
~~front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first
mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying module configured ~~to identify the mailpiece using a code on the~~
~~back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the~~
~~mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for identifying a second
mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system ~~sorting~~ processing module configured ~~to sort the~~
~~mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the~~
~~code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the sorting module includes: for~~
sorting a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the
identification code system processing module comprising:

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an identification code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece ~~at the input system;~~

~~a taking an image~~ module configured to ~~take~~ generate an image of the third mailpiece ~~at an input system;~~

a mailpiece ~~transmitting~~ transporting module configured to ~~transmit~~ transport the third mailpiece from the an input system to a ~~holding stack in an~~ output system;

C/ an identification file determining system processing module configured to process the ~~mailpiece~~ image in an identification file determining system to create an identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system;

a keying site processing module configured to process the ~~mailpiece~~ image at a keying site to create the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image, ~~if the identification file determining system did not create the identification file;~~

an identification file transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image ~~to the output system;~~ and

an associating module configured to associate the identification file ~~for the mailpiece image to~~ with the ~~corresponding~~ identification code corresponding to ~~for the~~ third mailpiece ~~at the output system.~~

45. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and processing a mailpiece, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

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determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if ~~there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if ~~the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

sorting processing the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the sorting step includes the substeps of: it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece only, processing the mailpiece in an identification code system comprises:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece at ~~the~~ an input subsystem;₁

~~taking~~ generating an image of the mailpiece using an optical ~~character~~ reader device at ~~an~~ the input subsystem;₁

~~transmitting~~ transporting the mailpiece from the input subsystem to a ~~holding stack in~~ an output subsystem;₁

transmitting the ~~mailpiece~~ image to an image control unit;₁

transmitting the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the image control unit to a remote computer reader;₁

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comparing the ~~mailpiece~~ image to a master reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file corresponding to ~~for~~ the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system;₁

transmitting the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the image control unit, if the remote computer reader created the identification file;₁ and

storing the ~~mailpiece~~ image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein ~~the~~ storing the image ~~step~~ includes ~~the~~ substeps of:

~~prompting~~ initiating a transmission of a buffer file containing the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the identification code sort image buffer to the image control unit;₁

transmitting the buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site;₁

processing the mailpiece image from the buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image;₁ and

transmitting the identification file from the keying site to the image control unit;₁

transmitting the identification file ~~corresponding to the mailpiece~~ ~~image~~ from a decision storage unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem;₁ and

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associating the identification file ~~for the mailpiece image~~ to the
~~corresponding~~ identification code corresponding to ~~for~~ the mailpiece at the
output subsystem.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising ~~the step~~
~~of~~ marking a postal code on the front of the mailpiece based on the identification file
~~associated with the identification code determined in the sorting step.~~

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the postal code on the front of
the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the postal code on the front of
the mailpiece is a bar code.

49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the postal code on the front of
the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

50. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the identification code on the
back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

51. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the identification code on the
back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

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52. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the processing step further comprises the substep of:

processing the mailpiece image in order of priority.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the mailpiece.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ transmitting the identification file to a primary identification code server.

C/ 55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ transmitting the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary identification code server.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ transmitting ~~the~~ a master reference table from a central database to the image control unit.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ transmitting the master reference table from the image control unit to the remote computer reader.

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58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein ~~the~~ prompting step includes receiving an end-of-run message.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising ~~the step of:~~ locating an identification file based on the code on the back of the mailpiece, if there is ~~the~~ a code on the back of the mailpiece.

60. (Currently Amended) A system of identifying and processing ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, comprising:

(C) a front code sorting component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying component configured ~~to identify the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system ~~sorting~~ processing component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting component includes:~~ for processing a third mailpiece in an identification code system, the third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

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an identification code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at ~~the~~ an input subsystem;

a ~~taking~~ generating component configured to ~~take~~ generate an image of the third mailpiece using an optical ~~character reader~~ device at ~~an~~ the input subsystem;

an input subsystem ~~transmitting~~ transporting component configured to ~~transmit~~ transport the third mailpiece from the input subsystem to a ~~holding stack~~ in an output subsystem;

an image control unit transmitting component configured to transmit the ~~mailpiece~~ image to an image control unit;

a remote computer reader transmitting component configured to transmit the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the image control unit to a remote computer reader;

a comparing component configured to compare the ~~mailpiece~~ image to a master reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file ~~for~~ corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system;

an identification file transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the image control unit, if the remote computer reader created the identification file; and

a storing component configured to store the ~~mailpiece~~ image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the

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identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein the storing component includes:

a ~~prompting an initiating~~ component configured to ~~prompt initiate~~ a transmission of a buffer file containing the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the identification code sort image buffer to the image control unit;

a buffer file transmitting component configured to transmit the buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site;

a processing component configured to process the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image; and

a return transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file from the keying site to the image control unit;

an output subsystem transmitting component configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image from a decision storage unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem; and

an associating component configured to associate the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the corresponding identification code for the ~~mailpiece~~ at the output subsystem.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 60, further comprising:

a postal code marking component configured to mark a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece based on the identification file ~~associated with the identification code determined by the identification code system sorting component.~~

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62. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is geographic coded code.

63. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a bar code.

64. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 61, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a POSTNET code.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 60, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is a printed bar code.

66. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 60, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is an ID tag.

67. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 60, wherein the processing component further comprises: a priority processing component configured to process the ~~mailpiece~~ image in order of priority.

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 67, wherein the priority is based on a geographic destination of the third mailpiece.

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69. (Original) The system of claim 60, further comprising:
a primary identification code server transmitting component configured to
transmit the identification file to a primary identification code server.

70. (Original) The system of claim 69, further comprising:
a secondary identification code server transmitting component configured to
transmit the identification file from the primary identification code server to a secondary
identification code server.

71. (Original) The system of claim 60, further comprising:
a central database transmitting component configured to transmit the master
reference table from a central database to the image control unit.

72. (Original) The system of claim 60, further comprising:
a master reference table transmitting component configured to transmit the
master reference table from the image control unit to the remote computer reader.

73. (Original) The system of claim 60, wherein the prompting component
receives an end-of-run message.

74. (Original) The system of claim 60, further comprising:
a locating component configured to locate an identification file based on the code
on the back of the mailpiece, if there is the code on the back of the mailpiece.

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75. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying and processing ~~a mailpiece~~
mailpieces, comprising:

means for sorting ~~the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if~~
~~there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

means for identifying ~~the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if~~
~~the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a~~
~~code on the back of the mailpiece~~ a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and
having a code on its back; and

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means for ~~sorting the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the~~
~~mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the~~
~~sorting means includes:~~ processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front
nor a code on its back, the processing means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the
back of the third mailpiece at ~~the~~ an input subsystem;₁

means for ~~taking~~ generating an image of the third mailpiece using an
optical ~~character reader device~~ at an the input subsystem;₁

means for ~~transmitting~~ transporting the third mailpiece from the input
subsystem to ~~a holding stack in~~ an output subsystem;₁

means for transmitting the ~~mailpiece~~ image to an image control unit;₁

means for transmitting the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the image control unit to
a remote computer reader;₁

means for comparing the ~~mailpiece~~ image to a master reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file ~~for~~ corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in ~~the~~ an identification code system;₁

means for transmitting the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the image control unit, if the remote computer reader created the identification file;₁ and

means for storing the ~~mailpiece~~ image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein the storing means ~~includes~~ comprises:

means for ~~prompting~~ initiating a transmission of a buffer file containing the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the identification code sort image buffer to the image control unit;₁

means for transmitting the buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site;₁

means for processing the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file ~~for~~ corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image; and₁

means for transmitting the identification file from the keying site to the image control unit;₁

means for transmitting the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image from a decision storage unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem;₁ and

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means for associating the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the corresponding identification code for the third mailpiece at the output subsystem.

76. (Currently Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying and processing ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, the computer readable code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for processing a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

an identifying module configured ~~to identify the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for identifying a second mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back; and

an identification code system ~~sorting~~ processing module configured ~~to sort the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the sorting module includes: for~~ processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back,
the identification code system processing component comprising:

an identification code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece at the an input subsystem;

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a ~~taking~~ generating module configured to ~~take~~ generate an image of the third mailpiece using an optical ~~character reader~~ device at an ~~the~~ input subsystem;

an input subsystem ~~transmitting~~ transporting module configured to ~~transmit~~ transport the third mailpiece from the input subsystem to a ~~holding stack~~ in an output subsystem;

an image control unit transmitting module configured to transmit the ~~mailpiece~~ image to an image control unit;

a remote computer reader transmitting module configured to transmit the mailpiece ~~image~~ from the image control unit to a remote computer reader;

a comparing module configured to compare the ~~mailpiece~~ image to a master reference table, by the remote computer reader, to create an identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system;

an identification file transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the image control unit, if the remote computer reader created the identification file; and

a storing module configured to store the ~~mailpiece~~ image in an identification code sort image buffer by the remote computer reader, if the identification file was not created by the remote computer reader, wherein the storing module ~~includes~~ comprises:

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a ~~prompting~~ an initiating module configured to ~~prompt~~ initiate a transmission of a buffer file containing the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the identification code sort image buffer to the image control unit;

a buffer file transmitting module configured to transmit the buffer file from the image control unit to a keying site;

a processing module configured to process the ~~mailpiece~~ image from the buffer file at the keying site to create the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image; and

a return transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file from the keying site to the image control unit;

an output subsystem transmitting module configured to transmit the identification file corresponding to the ~~mailpiece~~ image from a decision storage unit at the image control unit to the output subsystem; and

an associating module configured to associate the identification file for the ~~mailpiece~~ image to the corresponding identification code for the mailpiece at the output subsystem.

77. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a mailpiece, comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece;

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sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if ~~there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

identifying the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if ~~the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

identifying the mailpiece in an identification code system, ~~wherein if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system identifying step includes the substeps of:~~ if it was determined that the mailpiece include neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, identifying the mailpiece in the identification code system comprises:

marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece;

marking the mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the mailpiece;

and

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

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79. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

80. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

81. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

82. (Original) The method of claim 77, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

83. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code identifying component configured ~~to identify the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

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an identification code system identifying component configured to identify the
~~mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein if the mailpiece does not have the~~
~~code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system~~
~~identifying component includes:~~ for identifying a third mailpiece having neither a code on
its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system identifying component
comprising:

a back code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece
with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece;

a front code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece
with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece; and

a creating component configured to create an identification file
corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be
accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

84. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 83, wherein the postal code ~~on~~
~~the front of the mailpiece~~ is a geographic coded code.

85. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 83, wherein the postal code ~~on~~
~~the front of the mailpiece~~ is a bar code.

86. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 83, wherein the postal code ~~on~~
~~the front of the mailpiece~~ is a POSTNET code.

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87. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 83, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is a printed bar code.

88. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 83, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is an ID tag.

89. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, comprising:

means for sorting ~~the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

means for identifying ~~the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece, and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

means for identifying ~~the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system identifying means includes:~~ a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the sorting means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece;

means for marking the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece; and

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means for creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

90. (Currently Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, the computer readable code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured to ~~sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code identifying module configured to ~~identify the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system identifying module configured to ~~identify the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system identifying module includes~~ for identifying a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system identifying component comprising:

a back code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with

an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece;

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a front code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece; and

a creating module configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

91. (Currently Amended) A method of sorting a mailpiece, comprising the steps of:

determining if the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece and if the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if ~~there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the front of the mailpiece;

sorting the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if ~~the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ it was determined that the mailpiece includes a code on the back of the mailpiece only; and

~~sorting~~ processing the mailpiece in an identification code system, ~~wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting step includes the substeps of~~ if it was determined that the mailpiece includes neither a code on the front of the mailpiece nor a code on the back of the mailpiece, processing the mailpiece in the identification code system comprising:

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marking the mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the mailpiece;

marking the mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the mailpiece;
and

creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

C/ 92. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a geographic coded code.

93. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a bar code.

94. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the postal code on the front of the mailpiece is a POSTNET code.

95. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is a printed bar code.

96. (Original) The method of claim 91, wherein the identification code on the back of the mailpiece is an ID tag.

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97. (Currently Amended) A system for sorting ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, comprising:

a front code sorting component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code sorting component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

an identification code system ~~sorting~~ processing component configured ~~to sort the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting component includes~~ for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

a back code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece;

a front code marking component configured to mark the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece; and

a creating component configured to create an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in the identification code system.

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98. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 97, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a geographic coded code.

99. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 97, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a bar code.

100. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 97, wherein the postal code ~~on the front of the mailpiece~~ is a POSTNET code.

101. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 97, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is a printed bar code.

102. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 97, wherein the identification code ~~on the back of the mailpiece~~ is an ID tag.

103. (Currently Amended) A system for sorting a mailpiece, comprising:
means for sorting ~~the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ a first mailpiece having a code on its front;
means for sorting ~~the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

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means for ~~sorting the mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting means includes~~ processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a code on its back, the processing means comprising:

means for marking the third mailpiece with an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece;

means for marking the third mailpiece with a postal code on the front of the third mailpiece; and

means for creating an identification file corresponding to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a plurality of nodes in ~~the~~ an identification code system.

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104. (Currently Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for sorting ~~a mailpiece~~ mailpieces, the computer readable code comprising:

a front code sorting module configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the front of the mailpiece, if there is a code on the front of the mailpiece~~ for sorting a first mailpiece having a code on its front;

a back code sorting module configured ~~to sort the mailpiece using a code on the back of the mailpiece, if the mailpiece does not have the code on the front of the mailpiece and if there is a code on the back of the mailpiece~~ for identifying a second mailpiece not having a code on its front and having a code on its back; and

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an identification code system ~~sorting~~ processing module configured ~~to sort the~~
~~mailpiece in an identification code system, wherein, if the mailpiece does not have the~~
~~code on the front or on the back of the mailpiece, the identification code system sorting~~
~~module includes~~ for processing a third mailpiece having neither a code on its front nor a
code on its back, the identification code system processing component comprising:

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a back code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with
an identification code on the back of the third mailpiece; and

a front code marking module configured to mark the third mailpiece with a
postal code on the front of the third mailpiece; and

a creating module configured to create an identification file corresponding
to the identification code, wherein the identification file may be accessed by a
plurality of nodes in the an identification code system.

Claims 105-158 were withdrawn.

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